

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LISBON 02442 141603Z

47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /126 W

----- 027188

R 141510Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9821

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO UNN

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA UNN

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 2442

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT TAKES FIRST ROUND IN TV DISPUTE

REF: LISBON 2400

SUMMARY: TELEVISION STATION HAS APPRENTLY YIELDED TO INSISTENCE BY JUNTA AND PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT THAT TV PROGRAMMING IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE MADE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF TV STATION'S EMPLOYEES. END SUMMARY

1. DECISION OF JUNTA DELEGATE TO TELEVISION STATION RTP, MAJOR MARIZ FERNANDES, TO CUT OFF OFFENSIVE PROGRAM JUNE 10 (REFTEL) HAS DRAWN CRITICISM FROM FAR LEFT BUT WAS DEFENDED IN STATEMENTS ISSUED BY CENTRIST POLITICAL GROUPS. JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL ROSA CUUTINHO GAVE TV TALK JUNE 11 IN WHICH HE DEFENDED MARIZ FERNANDES DECISION AS "AN OBLIGATION INCUMBENT ON HIM IN CARRYING OUT THE MISSION THAT HE WAS GIVEN FULFILLMENT OF THE PROGRAM OF THE ARMED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LISBON 02442 141603Z

FORCES MOVEMENT." WHILE MINIMIZING IMPORTANCE OF

INCIDENT, ROSA COUTINHO EMPHASIZED THAT TELEVISION, A UNIQUE MEDIUM, BELONGS TO THE WHOLE NATION, NOT TO TV STATION'S EMPLOYEES. ROSA COUTINHO SAID THAT HE WAS SPEAKING IN THE NAME OF THE JUNTA OF NATIONAL SALVATION, BUT ADDED THAT VAST MAJORITY OF PORTUGUESE PEOPLE AGREED WITH HIM AND WITH SUSPENSION OF PROGRAM IN QUESTION.

2. RPT MANAGEMENT ISSUE COMMUNIQUE JUNE 13 REVIEWING WORK DONE BY OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY JUNTA IN WAKE OF COUP FOR PURPOSES OF MODERNIZING AND LIBERALIZING RTP, AND NOTING THAT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, "FOLLOWING PROGRAM OF ARMED FORCES" HAD ESTABLISHED SUPERVISORY BODY FOR RTP. ITS SUPERVISION, COMMUNIQUE STATED, "WILL INFLUENCE, OBVIOUSLY,...THE CONTENTS OF TELEVISION PROGRS."

3. COMMUNIQUE FROM "THE WORKERS OF RTP" CARRIED IN PRESS JUNE 13 WAS MILD DOCUMENT WHICH STRESSED THAT RTP EMPLOYEES WERE AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY. DOCUMENT ALSO POINTED OUT THAT "ANY ARBITRARY INTERFERENCE IS A THREAT TO FREEDOM."

4. TV PROGRAMMING JUNE 12 AND 13 PROCEEDED AS SCHEDULED AND WAS GENERALLY MORE BALANCED THAN IMMEDIATELY PREVIOUSLY, ALTHOUGH VIEWERS DID GET PRO-CASTRO DOCUMENTARY ON CUBA EVENING OF JUNE 13.

5. CONFUSED SITUATIONS EXIST AT RADIO STATIONS, WITH SOME INTERRUPTION OF PROGRAMS. UNDERLYING ISSUE IS SAME AS AT RTP--CONTROL OF PROGRAM CONTENT.

6. COMMENT: FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST GOVERNMENT HAS SUCCEEDED IN PREVENTING UNFETTERED LEFTIST CONTROL OF TELEVISION. WE BELIEVE THIS STRUGGLE FOR INFLUENCE IS AS IMPORTANT AS ANY NOW UNDERWAY BECAUSE OUTCOME WILL AFFECT POLITICAL LIFE FOR LONG TIME TO COME. SCOTT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELEVISION, CENSORSHIP, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON02442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740155-0263
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740645/aaaabmeq.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LISBON 2400
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNMENT TAKES FIRST ROUND IN TV DISPUTE
TAGS: PINT, PO, (FERNANDES, MARIZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005